

How the Right Watches the Left

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The would-be leftist US Labor Party, armed with conspiratorial slogans and time-tested tactics have exposed themselves at last as voluntary intelligence analysts and ultra-conservative, protofascist informers for state police agencies. Sixteen pages of documents recently obtained from the New Hampshire State Police by the Clamshell Alliance reveal close collaboration on at least two occasions between New Hampshire State Police and the USLP, otherwise known as the National Caucus of Labor Committees.

Just one month after the largest occupation/ protest of a nuclear power plant in the US, the Clamshell Alliance has pried from their lawsuit documents showing the sources of the police's intelligence information. Included were four pages of "intelligence reports" filed by New Hampshire State Police lieutenant Donald Buxton outlining his meetings and conversations with Boston Labor Party members Graham Lowry and Larry Sherman, both full-time Party activists who have run for public offices; five pages from the USLP publication Counterintelligence full of typical USLP conspiratorial harangue, and another six pages of documents from the sophisticated right-wing Information Digest, a recently exposed newsletter, circulated to exclusive audiences of private corporations and government intelligence agencies. Also released by New Hampshire was a page-long report from an FBI informant concerning a March July Fourth Coalition meeting in New York City. It is clear that Governor Meldrim Thomson of New Hampshire and that state's police used these documents to target the Clamshell Alliance as a "cover for terrorist activity."

Detective Lt. Donald Buxton was instructed to contact Sherman and Lowry at their Boston USLP headquarters. The next day, April 13, Buxton

Harvey Kahn works with the Repression Information Project. Eda Gordon is a coordinator of the Guild Investigative Group. made the several hour drive to Boston and met with them as planned. "These very well informed gentlemen felt that the planned demonstration on April 30, 1977 at the site of the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant is nothing but a cover for terrorist activity," read the beginning of the entitled "intelligence report" Buxton filed on April 14. "The method of operation will be the same as recently used at a bloody anti-nuclear power plant demonstration in West Germany. The support for this terrorist group is based on the east coast, and is essentially the same network which worked with the Fourth of July Bicentennial Committee, and is now working with the Clamshell Alliance."

More than coincidentally, only a few days before the Buxton report was filed, an FBI informant filed what appeared to be a routine report with the New Hampshire State Police. This one page document, part of what the Clamshell Alliance received from the State police, was a telephone call from the Portsmouth office of the FBI relating "that the New York office of the FBI had information from an informant that attended the March 26th meeting of the July Fourth Coalition in New York City. The informant revealed that the Coalition endorsed the scheduled April 30th sit-in and encouraged their members to take part in the demonstration. He advised that the Coalition predicted a "violent encounter with the police" when the police attempted to remove the demonstrators from the area," read the bulk of the report the informant filed. In effect, the USLP reinforced, and carried further the FBI intelligence information of a few days earlier. Both the FBI and the USLP were watching the July Fourth Coalition, both made the link to the Clamshell, and both saw violence as a logical extension of that relationship. Most importantly, the FBI documents prove continuing efforts by the government to spy on the Left.

What many and most movement people are relieved to pass off as craziness, can be and is translated by the NCLC/USLP into believable and

acceptable scenarios for their political allies. And in the nuclear age, with the existence of nuclear power facilities, almost indefensible from terrorists, the government and corporations' willing rationalization is that no chances can be taken to protect these plants. If the USLP cries conspiracy, and promises a terrorist incident, the authorities, both public and private, feel justified to take precautions, and be comforted and thankful that someone outside their organization has told them to do so.

The USLP has admitted that it has passed intelligence to other states in the past. Sherman, the Boston USLP leader, recalled for the Concord Monitor that: "the Labor Party has served before as informers for State Police. He cited what he called a 10-page 'massive intelligence report' prepared for state police during Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts bombings in 1976. Four men of a terrorist group known as the "Fred Hampton Unit" have been convicted for transporting explosives over state lines in connection

with the bombings."

The questions are always asked about Lyndon LaRouche, NCLC chairman, and his loyal following: Are they linked to intelligence agencies? Or is it an intelligence operation in itself as Olaf Palme, former prime minister of Sweden, once charged? After close evaluation of NCLC/USLP disruption over the last four years spanning most of the social change movement, and its attack on moderate to revolutionary, intellectual and activist, environmentalist to factory organizer, the net result is that the NCLC/USLP appears more thorough than any FBI informer, and effectively equal to an agent provocateur. While producing intelligence information on the one hand, under the guise of "left" political correctness, and discrediting activists with sham literature, screaming at picketers through bullhorns, harassing organizers petitioning at unemployment lines, they serve the provocateur function.

Shortly after the famed documents became public, the USLP called a press conference in Concord, New Hampshire to defend their relationship with the State Police. The Associated Press and four local medias showed up to hear the USLP call for a grand jury, federal and state investigations of the Clamshell Alliance and all their friends. USLP spokespeople announced that "We are the leading counter-terrorist organization" and proceeded to lay out the conspiracy: Clamshell Alliance was organized in part by ex-SDS members; the Weather Underground "terrorist" grew out of SDS; or from another angle: Haymarket People's Fund gives money to the North East Prison Alliance, and "other terrorists" receive funds from Haymarket as well, therefore, the Clamshell Alliance is terrorist because it has accepted money from the

Haymarket people.

At the press conference, the NCLC/USLP was asked what was their relationship to the Information Digest. They responded by calling the Information Digest authors—John and Louise Rees—"born again conservatives." The fact that the

NCLC included excerpts from the Information Digest in its 'intelligence' on the Clamshell Alliance is almost too good a link to justify claims about their right-wing repressive politics. We know the I.D. is connected to a right-wing intelligence network that has been infiltrating a wide circle of liberal and left groups in the United States since 1968. The network has ties to the John Birch Society, conservative congressman Larry McDonald (D, Georgia), the blacklisting operations of the Church League of America, and the intelligence apparatus of the government at all levels.

The Information Digest is the fruits of this intelligence-gathering—a compendium of gossip, newsclips, innuendo, rumor, biased analysis, and outright lies, not to mention documents obtained illegally through wiretap, surreptitious entry and direct infiltration. The targets: liberal and left individuals and groups, including politicians, anti-war and Third World political activists, lawyers, writers and show business personalities.

Occasionally the authors will throw in a right-wing paramilitary group like National States Rights

Party or the Minutemen.

The known editors of the Information Digest are John and S. Louise Rees, who publish the I.D. from a row house on the fringes of Baltimore, Maryland's radical community. It is circulated to a secret list of over 40 subscribers, including police departments, private corporations, news media, even the Readers Digest and a major television network. Most government intelligence agencies, such as the FBI, CIA, IRS and National Security Agency, received complimentary copies, and the raw, often false data was often indiscriminately incorporated in domestic intelligence files on individual organizations. The New York State Police took the unevaluated information from the I.D., condensed and referenced it in their files and then claimed the newsletter as a "confidential informant" immune from disclosure, when the State Office of Legislative Oversight began investigating police intelligence abuses. The Michigan State Police has further admitted to receiving the I.D. with Congressman McDonald's office as the return.

The Maryland State Police helped obtain a Baltimore Post Office box for I.D. in December 1974. The Reeses, with various aliases, were authorized to pick up the mail, along with John Norpel, Jr. who until 1975 was research director for the Senate Internal Security Committee, before which John Rees testified on the Venceremos Brigade and New Left. According to Norpel: "Rees' information was invaluable to the intelligence community... I don't think Rees got his information from federal agencies. It was my impression that the federal intelligence community was more dependent on

him than he was on them."

The Maryland and New York State Police and the Baltimore Police, are all members of the Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit, established in 1956 by police and sheriffs' departments disgruntled with the FBI for upstaging their intelligence work. Under an elaborate organizational structure—four

regional zones, national and zone officers, a board of directors, bylaws—the LEIU exchanges information and agents among its now 225 members, above the scrutiny of any governmental bodies which monitor law enforcement despite its often illegal activities. Likewise, its budgets are hidden in the budgets of its members, with no review by governmental bodies appropriating funds, including the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, a critical funding source, utilizing a data system which links the intelligence units, i.e. red squad, files of nearly every major city in the nation as well as some in Canada.

John and Louise Rees have a long history of movement disruption. In 1968 they infiltrated the radical New York Crazies; in 1971 they joined the Mayday Tribe and came to Washington DC for the historical antiwar protests; later they infiltrated the Institute for Policy Studies and the National Lawyers Guild. While in DC, John worked with the Metropolitan Police, who paid the rent on a community bookstore, Redhouse, which the Reeses operated for almost a year with a dwindling group of community people. The Redhouse, equipped with mimeograph machine and many movement periodicals, became a gathering place for DC activists. Also, around this time, the Reeses created another information-gathering scam: CCERL (Coordinating Center for Education in Repression and the Law), which was advertised as an organization to combat police repression, illegal surveillance of protest groups, grand juries, political trials and to promote prisoners' rights and the abolition of capital punishment. CCERL continues to exist today as a PO Box in Maryland used to collect material that is then channeled into the I.D.

In June of 1973, Yippie organizers were invited by the Reeses to set up headquarters in the Reeses' DC home while planning and stashing for the Annual Fourth of July Smoke-in. The Yippies wound up \$200 short and the subject of extensive intelligence reports, which later surfaced in their FBI dossiers. The Smoke-in was one of seven entries in the July 14, 1973 issue of Information Digest, which carried reports on the National Defense Organization (the original name of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression), the Prison Project, African Liberation Day, the Center for Constitutional Rights, the Wounded Knee Legal Defense Fund, and the National Welfare Rights Organization convention.

It has never been established that the house was 'bugged, but at one point a suspicious roommate gained entrance into the Reeses' perpetually locked room and found wiretapping equipment and arms. The police had John's permission to install electronic equipment there and a key to get in. They also rented and bugged an office for him to use.

According to a Report of the New York State
Office of Legislative Oversight and Analysis: John
Rees has worked hand in hand with police across
the country, as typical of LEIU agents. He told DC
police he operated in Houston, on the West Coast,

in Maryland, in New Jersey and in New York State. Law enforcement officials say he would tantalize police with stories of violent plots, and developed a reputation for intelligence by taking information he had learned from one department and relaying it to another. Rees has continuously percolated intelligence through the private and public sectors.

In 1968, he founded a New York Corporation, National Goals, Inc., "to provide an investigative service for various branches of government and prepare memoranda, reports, etc." National Goals published the I.D., which was advertised in the National Laymen's Digest, a publication of the Church League of Ameria, which Rees himself edited in 1969-70. The Church League, a right-wing tax exempt black listing operation, was founded in 1937 by Frank Loesch—head of the



Chicago Crime Commission, prosecutor of Al Capone and counsel for the Pennsylvania Rail-road—with other Christian stalwarts dedicated to keeping tabs on every person "attacking and ridiculing a major doctrine of Christian Faith or the American way of life."

A Church League brochure boasts that: "The largest and most comprehensive files on subversive activity, with the single exception of the FBI, are located in the Research Library in Wheaton, III. Into these headquarters come thousands of requests for original source materials and documents from every part of the Free World." It goes on to describe a 40-year history of information-gathering by "top Christian scholars, former staff members of Congressional investigation commit-

tees and intelligence divisions of Government...
hired and working under the direction of a National
board of lay and clerical leaders," the use of undercover operatives who sat in on Communist and
leftist meetings around the globe and "who
ingratiated themselves with leftists that accepted
their volunteer help to work in various headquarters."

In addition to the newsletter National Laymen's Digest, the Church League publishes Special Reports on various groups, such as "Attorneys for Treason" a 70-page description of the National Lawyers Guild and their 1973 Austin, Texas convention. That report is an expansion of the February 23, 1973 edition of I.D., large portions of which (the same material) were inserted into the Congressional Record by arch-conservative Rep. Larry McDonald, who stores dried food in the attic of his Atlanta home in case of communist invasion or internal insurrection. More recently he has begun to cite the I.D. as his source, legitimizing its intelligence in the same way the police have done.

McDonald, the youngest member of the John Birch Society's National Council, is currently being investigated on charges of illegally stockpiling guns and offering untraceable weapons to friends in the Birch Society. The Society has defended McDonald's antics in the past, and recently their magazine, American Opinion, condemned attacks on McDonald's "patriotic" researcher Louise Rees and her husand, claiming there is a bizarre conspiracy involving then-President Ford, the National Lawyers Guild, former Attorney General Levi, the Socialist Workers Party, Jimmy Carter, and the murderers of Chilean exile Orlando Letelier, a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies.

The National Lawyers Guild, a major target of the spy network, and NCLC alike, has established the Guild Investigative Group to unravel the host of interwoven alliances tied into the Reeses and the I.D. For a report of GIG findings and analysis, write to GIG at Box 1424, Arlington, VA 22210.

Today we find the Reeses, under the name Seeley, living in Baltimore and commuting back and forth to DC. Louise, who served as a researcher for the House Internal Security Committee until its demise in 1973, is now in the employ of Larry McDonald. She conducts her research from the house which doubles as a commercial kennel named Llareggub (Buggerall spelled backwards). She is rarely seen although during their two-year residence there she did attempt to gain a toehold in the lesbian community, while John, in company with known police and suspected agents, appeared randomly among community coalitions and demonstrations. The sense in Baltimore is that many people know the Reeses' story, but no one will confront them directly because of the fear of physical retaliation. John is now masquerading as a freelance journalist. He may also work for the Wackenhut Corporation, the third largest international security and investigative firm which has admitted in Congressional hearings to using information from Church League of America files — "How else can we find out if someone was a

member of the CP?" Wackenhut vice president John Ammarell said. Wackenhut confirmed Rees' employment; then, after the hearings, withdraw their original verification by name, address and social security number.

Both John and Louise are currently fighting in lawsuits against illegal surveillance filed by the Institute for Policy Studies, the Socialist Workers Party and the National Lawyers Guild, on the basis of their First Amendment rights as journalists. But when the Criminal Division of the Justice Department stepped in to represent them, the question resounded: who actually controls and finances the I.D. operation?

Still unknown, too, is the scope of the I.D. network. John Rees once told a friend that there are six couples around the country with a similar modus operandi. Recent evidence points to a Connecticut man and woman who have been exposed as paid informants on the gay and prison movements in New Hampshire and Hartford. In the meantime, I.D. continues to be published—sanctioned by federal, state and local police as well as the powers of the organized right-wing.

The convergence of the I.D., the FBI, the USLP and Governor Meldrim Thomson would appear a real first. But close scrutiny opens up a Pandora's box of intrigue and entanglements this sketch has only touched upon. The I.D., the Labor Party, and the FBI for that matter, are facets of Far Right intelligence not limited by funds, by outlets for information or boundaries to which they must adhere.

To many, it may be surprising to learn that NCLC/USLP is actually allied with the organized right-wing. The NCLC, which began as an ad hoc committee inside the SDS, split away over differences in 1968. New Solidarity, was launched that year and is now their twice weekly newspaper. The group remained small, and in 1973, began to seek "hegemony over the left" with the use of force, calling their 60 or so physical attacks in a sixmonth period "operation Mop-up." Since then their attacks have been infrequent, and their affiliations have been subject to question.

Over the last few years, their attempted alliances with the right have become more obvious. In a campaign speech in Baltimore last year, Lyndon H. LaRouche, eccentric chairman of the USLP and presidential candidate on the 1976 ballot in 25 states, stated: "Our closest political allies are the Republican National Committee and the John Birch Society." The night before the presidential election, LaRouche demanded during a prime-time TV half-hour that a nation-wide NBC audience vote for Gerald Ford. The USLP delivered \$95,000 cash in a paper bag to pay for the time only hours before the telecast to allow their leader to insist, as the many NCLCers do daily on streetcorners, that thermo-nuclear war is months away. And when we sneak by without catastrophe, we will know it was the saving grace of the USLP which prevented it.

There are many more examples that expose over and over again the USLP ties to the right. A libertarian right-wing Capital Hill propaganda

outpost called the Liberty Lobby, sells the USLP's publication, "Carter and the Party of International Terrorism." The editor of the Lobby's publication, Spotlight, agrees with what's in the USLP publication. "Otherwise we wouldn't sell it!" In another incident, a staffer of the Repression Information Project, a coalition of researchers, some of whom published the NCLC: Brownshirts of the Seventies pamphlet, was in the DC USLP office and overheard a LP member briefing the Senate Internal Security Committee about the Institute for Policy Studies to obtain an appointment to testify before the committee.

Since the November elections, the USLP has launched an intensive drive to recruit support from the traditional rightist forces. They have approached the Young Americans for Freedom, the American Conservative Union; which has 100,000 members, the Conservative Caucus, the Young Republican National Federation, the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress, and others. Morton Blackwell, the assistant publisher of the conservative newsletter known as The Right Report, told Zodiac News Service that the USLP representatives have been making numerous contacts with conservative Republican groups in recent months, including the systematic tele-

phoning of young Republican State Chairpersons in states around the country.

Not only is the USLP to be placed on the right, as they themselves have done. The group also, for all its hate propaganda, for all its verbal and physical attacks on progressive political people, and for all that time that it tried to maintain the "left cover" while working with the right, has to be called, and rightfully so, a classic proto-fascist organization in the US political arena. The USLP has made alliances with "pro-development industrialists in the business sector, promoted rapid technological growth, advocated nuclear power and stability in the economy. For a detailed analysis of NCLC/USLP, order the first pamphlet by TIP, NCLC: Brownshirts of the Seventies, or the second to come out soon, NCLC and the Far Right Intelligence Networks, published by the Repression Information Project, both available through Box 3278, Washington, DC 20010. They cost \$1 each.

In a September 24, 1976 Washington Post column on the USLP, Steven Rosenfeld called them a "political menace" and suggested that their pattern "is familiar to anyone who has studied the rise of Hitler." Many political observers argue against such a notion. But like it or not, this band of zealous vigilantes is here for a while.

SUBSCRIBERS WE COULD DO WITHOUT

Responding to a request from some people doing research on right-wing infiltration in the Movement, we discovered that Louise Rees subscribed to WIN between 1970 and 1973. She used the name Sheila Rees and even made several small contributions on fund appeals!

The Internal Revenue Service Special Service Division (the since-disbanded "plumber" bureau of IRS) also had a subscription during that same period under the pseudonym of "Hugh Edwards." Most of the WIN IRS file, which we obtained through a Freedom of Information request, contains old fund appeals and renewal notices. There is no record, however, that the IRS people ever made additional contributions to WIN.

We can't find any evidence that the government or right-wing are currently on our subscription list. However, they're apparently still reading us faithfully. Excerpts from WIN appear regularly in the harangues that Larry McDonald inserts in the Congressional Record. In an insert just this past April, McDonald quoted from a WIN article by Marty Jezer on plans for the Seabrook occupation. And, of course, WIN is quoted as a source in the Information Digest material released to the Clamshell with the state police surveillance

We've always been glad to learn that people read and rely on the information they find in WIN, but this is not exactly what we had in mind.



